

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The NDPD Berlin (Soviet Sector) is making plans to move from its present location in Berlin-Mitte, Friedrichstrasse 113, to a 53-room building in Schönhauser Allee, corner of Saarbrückerstrasse. This represents a considerable expansion since June 1949 when it began operations in Friedrichstrasse on the premises of the publishing office of the National-Zeitung. The zonal headquarters of the NDPD is also planning to move from its present location in Köpenickerstrasse, Berlin-Treptow, to larger quarters in Jägerstrasse, Berlin-Mitte.
2. Former Major General Arno von Lenski is shortly to become assistant head of the NDPD for Berlin under Alfred Wunderlich.
3. Max Schneider, head of the NDPD school in Buckow, took over the National-Zeitung as acting editor-in-chief about 1 September when Albrecht Albert was suddenly relieved of his duties after a long secret meeting at NDPD headquarters. Schneider at the same time was named Political Secretary of the NDPD Berlin in place of Dr. Joachim Peck. It is expected that a new man will shortly be chosen to be editor-in-chief of the National-Zeitung. Dr. Peck has been put in charge of Press and Propaganda.
4. Schneider stated recently that the NDPD Berlin must bring its total membership up to 8,000 members by 20 October 1949.** Schneider intimated that he expected that by 20 October the harvest would be in, that bread and potatoes would be freely available, and that elections could then be conducted in the Soviet Zone of Germany. This recruiting campaign will be made even more difficult by the circumstance that the week from 26 September to 1 October 1949 will be set aside in the Soviet Zone as a Kulturwoche, when no political meetings will be held by any party.
5. As an indication of the financial means of the NDPD, it is of interest to note that the Organization Section of the NDPD for Berlin had expenditures of 30,000 DM (East) for the month of July 1949.

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6. It is estimated that from 60% to 70% of the MDPD members in Berlin were formerly members of the NSDAP. This figure cannot be stated exactly since the party questionnaire, in line with recent JDPD propaganda, does not require information to be set down on this matter. However, comparison of war-time positions with present-day positions held by the individuals concerned usually provides a good key. The MDPD is required to furnish the Soviet political officers in the Central Komendatura four copies of applications for membership in the MDPD, and pertinent data concerning the political past of the applicants must be added to the form by the person doing the recruiting.

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** This is a very optimistic project, as membership as of 1 September was 1,900.

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